

Dear Honorable Representative and Senators of the Appropriations Committee, please accept my testimony in support of fully funding Family School Connection.

Family School Connection provides home visits to families with the goal of reducing truancy and increasing parent engagement. It focuses on Child Development, Problem behaviors, routines and Community Life skills. Families are connected to community resources and invited to attend school events. It is a research based program and has been at Bielefield School in Middletown since 2008.

As a former home visitor for the program, I saw first hand the impact this model has on families that are low income, suffer from mental illness or have little supports. Families partner in setting treatment goals and baseline and exit data is gathered to measure model effect.

In my time as a home visitor, I have seen the effects of the program

- gain housing for homeless families,
- connect parents to mental health providers,
- reduce truancy
- reduce difficult behaviors at home and in school
- increase parent engagement
- connect parents to return to school for high school diplomas and college
- improved relationships between school and parents
- improve relationships between parent and child

This is an important program that means so much to families and helps improve school outcomes. Please ensure it is fully funded.

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Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.

"Under the shelter of each other, people survive" = There's strength in unity